

I am writing to express my strong feeling that the FCC must NOT relax the cross-ownership regulations that currently ban TV stations and newspapers from being owned by the same company.

The quality of the news the American people receive -- as with the quality of any industry's product -- depends on there being a healthy level of competition. The fewer news outlets there are in a city, the less incentive there is for any of our news gatherers to go the extra mile and do the kind of ground-breaking reporting that our democracy requires in order to function.

FCC, please think about this. Democracy depends on a well-informed, educated citizenry. Where do we get our information? From the news. Compare the quality of television news to newspapers. Television news shows never explore a story in as much depth as newspapers do. If all the newspapers are owned by television stations, what's to stop the TV executives from turning the newspapers into print versions of the 6 o'clock headlines? The result would be disastrous.

Please, FCC, preserve our media, our robust right of public discourse, and the health of our democracy. Don't relax the rules against cross-ownership. Strengthen them. Strengthen our country.

Thank you,
Sara Marcus